

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 CU-05

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SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S VISIT TO MEXICO SEPT 12-15.

REF: A) TOKYO 11736

B) MEXICO A-379

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER KAKUEI TANAKA CONCLUDED A FAVORABLY RECEIVED AND WELL PUBLICIZED GOOD WILL VISIT SEPT 15. DESPITE JAPANESE DESIRE TO DE-EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC RELATIONS, THESE DOMINATED BOTH HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND MEXICAN PRESS ACCOUNTS. ONLY NEW GROUND BROKEN DURING VISIT WAS AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A MEXICAN-JAPANESE SCHOOL IN MEXICO TO BOLSTER CULTURAL TIES. OTHER SALIENT FEATURES OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ARE A CAREFULLY WORDED STATEMENT OF JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES AND GENERAL PLEDGES TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. TANAKA HELD TWO MEETINGS OF ABOUT ONE HOUR EACH WITH

ECHEVERRIA. ACCORDING TO JAPAN EMBOFF, ECHEVERRIA BEGAN DISCUSSIONS BY NOTING THAT MEXICO NEEDS FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND THAT THE GOM IS DISAPPOINTED IN THE LEVEL OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT HERE. HE REPORTEDLY BLAMED THIS ON JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN WHOM HE CRITICIZED AS BEING TOO CAUTIOUS AND SLOW IN TAKING ACTION. TANAKA RESPONDED THAT HE AGREED THAT JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN MEXICO, WHICH ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 100 MILLION US DOLLARS (COMPARED TO 10 TIMES THIS AMOUNT IN BRAZIL) IS INADEQUATE AND THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THIS SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE. HERETOFORE, INVESTMENT HAS BEEN PRIVATE BUT GOJ TAKING GREATER ROLE IN COOPERATING WITH BUSINESS IN SUPPORT OF OVERSEAS INVESTMENT.

3. ADDITIONALLY, ECHEVERRIA EXPRESSED PLEASURE OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MEXICAN-JAPANESE SCHOOL AND PROPOSED THAT THE EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS BE DOUBLED FROM ITS CURRENT LEVEL OF 100 STUDENTS PER YEAR. TANAKA REGRETTED JAPAN UNABLE TO DO THIS (GOJ REPORTS IT CURRENTLY HAS DIFFICULTY FINDING 100 QUALIFIED STUDENTS WHO WISH TO STUDY IN MEXICO), AND COUNTERED BY SUGGESTING THAT THE QUALITY OF THIS PROGRAM BE IMPROVED. HE NOTED THAT THE NEW SCHOOL, FOR WHICH THE GOJ HAS PROMISED ONE MILLION US DOLLARS AND WHICH IS THE ONLY CONCRETE NEW COMMITMENT MADE DURING THE VISIT, SHOULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THIS GOAL.

4. THE TANAKA-ECHEVERRIA COMMUNIQUE IS FOR THE MOST PART A VERY GENERAL DOCUMENT WHICH REVIEWS RELATIONS AND PLEDGES TO IMPROVE THEM. THE ONLY COMMITMENTS ARE FOR ESTABLISHING A JOINT SCHOOL (SEE PARA 3) AND TO SUPPORT THE SALE OF NEW GOM BONDS IN JAPAN IF BOTH CAPITAL MARKET CONDITIONS AND THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION PERMIT THIS. JAPAN EMBOFFS DOUBT THAT THIS SALE WILL BE POSSIBLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

5. IN ADDITION, TANAKA CAREFULLY ENDORSED THE ECHEVERRIA-PROPOSED CHARTER IN PRINCIPLE WITHOUT PREJUDICING THE GOJ'S BARGAINING POSITION. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT "THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED PROFOUND INTEREST IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THIS INITIATIVE (THE CHARTER) AS A MEANS OF COOPERATION AMONG ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD IN PURSUIT OF THE IDEAL OF PROGRESS AND THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND WITH RECIPROCAL BENEFITS AND THAT BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA "CONCUR IN THEIR DESIRES THAT, IN ACCORD WITH THE ABOVE, THE CHARTER BE ADOPTED AT THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY."

6. CONTRARY TO LAST PARA OF REF B, TANAKA DID NOT RAISE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE JAPANESE FISHING RIGHTS WITHIN MEXICO'S FUTURE ECONOMIC ZONE.

7. IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCES, TANAKA STRESSED THAT JAPAN IS OPPOSED TO SIMPLY EXPLOITING THE PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THAT HIS COUNTRY ACQUIRES THESE THROUGH ACCORDS WHICH ARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE SUPPLIER AND CONSUMER. THIS WAS MUSIC TO THE EARS OF THE MEXICANS AND HE REAPED A RICH HARVEST OF EXTENSIVE AND VERY FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

8. JAPAN EMBOFF NOTED THAT ECHEVERRIA, WHEN HE ENTERED OFFICE, WAS FASCINATED BY CHINA AND JAPAN. DISAPPOINTMENT OVER LEVEL OF JAPANESE INVESTMENT AND OVER TANAKA'S APPARENT RELUCTANCE TO RECIPROCATE ECHEVERRIA'S STATE VISIT HAD BEGUN TO MAKE MEXICAN PRESIDENT SOMEWHAT CRITICAL AND HARDER TO DEAL WITH. THIS SAME DIPLOMAT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT TANAKA VISIT, DESPITE THE FACT IT WAS MOSTLY A GESTURE WITH LITTLE IN WAY OF COMMITMENT, WILL GO FAR TOWARD RESTORING ECHEVERRIA TO A MORE FAVORABLE VIEW OF JAPAN.
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